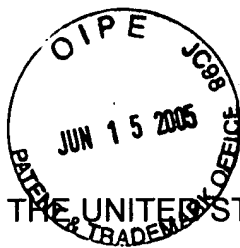


P24072.A06

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant(s) : Shigenobu SATO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3738

Appln. No. : 10/642,756

Examiner: Alvin J. STEWART

Filed : August 19, 2003

Confirmation No.: 3012

For : INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AF
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Final Official Action of February 24, 2005, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on May 24, 2005, and for which a Request for Extension of Time for one month is being filed concurrently herewith, setting the period for response to expire June 24, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this Response.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this Response.